

Amendments to the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-25.

26. (new) An apparatus for preparing soil for the placement therein of at least one of seed and additive, said apparatus comprising:

a frame having a front and rear;

a coulter wheel mounted on the frame at an elevation at which said coulter wheel penetrates the soil to create an opening for at least one of seed and additive as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over the soil; and

at least one toothed wheel rotatably mounted on the frame and engaging the soil, said toothed wheel overlapping at least a portion of said coulter wheel to strip soil clods from said coulter wheel.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said toothed wheel is angled to redistribute residue laterally from said opening created by said coulter wheel.

28. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 which includes a pair of said toothed wheels.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said toothed wheels are both angled to redistribute residue laterally from said opening created by said coulter wheel.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said coulter wheel has a central axis and said toothed wheel resides substantially entirely rearwardly of said central axis of the coulter wheel.

31. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said coulter wheel is one of a wave and a ripple construction.

32. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said toothed wheel is mounted on said frame so that it traces a path in rotation bounded by a plane that intersects said coulter wheel.

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 in combination with a pair of discs mounted on the frame for continuously defining an open slot in soil loosened by the toothed wheel for receipt of at least one of seed and fertilizer as the frame advances in a travel direction.

34. (new) The apparatus of claim 33 in combination with a seed supply mounted on the frame for continuously delivering at least one of seed and fertilizer to soil and a pair of closing wheels mounted on the frame for continuously placing soil in said slot as the frame is advanced in a travel direction.

35. (new) A method of preparing soil for the placement therein of at least one of seed and additive, said method comprising:

traversing the soil with a frame carrying
a rotatable coulter wheel mounted at an elevation at which said coulter wheel penetrates the soil to create an opening for at least one of seed and additive, and
at least one toothed wheel rotatably mounted on the frame and overlapping at least a portion of said coulter wheel to strip soil clods from said coulter wheel, said toothed wheel being mounted at an elevation at which said toothed wheel engages the soil to redistribute residue on the soil.

36. (new) The method of claim 35 wherein said toothed wheel is angled to redistribute residue laterally from said opening created by said coulter wheel.

37. (new) The method of claim 35 which includes a pair of said toothed wheels.

38. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein said toothed wheels are both angled to redistribute residue laterally from said opening created by said coulter wheel.

39. (new) The method of claim 35 wherein said coulter wheel has a central axis and said toothed wheel resides substantially entirely rearwardly of said central axis of the coulter wheel.

40. (new) The method of claim 35 wherein said coulter wheel is one of a wave and a ripple construction.

41. (new) The method of claim 35 wherein said toothed wheel is mounted on said frame so that it traces a path in rotation bounded by a plane that intersects said coulter wheel.

42. (new) The method of claim 35 which includes a pair of discs mounted on said frame for continuously defining an open slot in soil loosened by the toothed wheel for receipt of at least one of seed and fertilizer as the frame advances in a travel direction.

43. (new) The method of claim 42 which includes a seed supply mounted on said frame for continuously delivering at least one of seed and fertilizer to soil and a pair of closing wheels mounted on the frame for continuously placing soil in said slot as the frame is advanced in a travel direction.